Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Des Moines Fire and Police Station Property ID: 711682

Location

Address: 730 S 225th St, Des Moines, WA, 98198, USA

Geographic Areas: Des Moines Certified Local Government, King County Certified Local Government, King County, T22R04E17, DES MOINES Quadrangle, Congressional District 9, 33

Information

Number of stories:

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1947	☐

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Government	Government - Fire Station
Government	Government - Fire Station

Historic Context:

Category
Community Planning and Development
Architecture

Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company

Thematics:

Local Registers and Districts

Name	Date Listed	Notes

Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date

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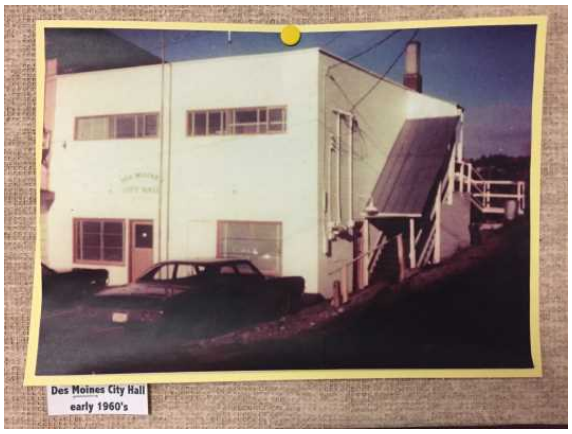
Photos

S_225th_St_730 (1).jpg



S_225th_St_730.JPG

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Inventory Details - 7/28/2017

Common name: Des Moines History Museum

Date recorded: 7/28/2017

Field Recorder: Susan Johnson

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Roof Type	Flat with Parapet
Cladding	Brick
Cladding	Vinyl Siding
Plan	Rectangle
Structural System	Masonry - Concrete Block (CMU)

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: No

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): Yes

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local): No

Significance narrative: This building is not recommended as potentially individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Although the building is more than 50 years of age, it does not retain sufficient integrity and/or it lacks architectural distinction at the level required for the National Register under Criteria C. As of completion of this survey no historical significance has been identified to merit recommending this property for listing under Criterion A or B for association with events or significant persons. Future research may yield additional information that could change this recommendation. The building appears to be within a potential local historic district but the level of alterations are such that it is not recommended as a contributing property to the district.

Des Moines, Washington is a community within King County. Although the area was long used for fishing and shellfish harvesting by Native Americans, no permanent settlements are known until Euro-American land claims began in the late 1800s. The townsite officially began in 1889. Des Moines has historically been a semi-rural community along the saltwater shores of Puget Sound, approximately halfway between the urban centers of Tacoma and Seattle. Boats connected Des Moines with the outside world before roads and automobiles were prevalent. Today, the city is known for its connection to the water as well as being along or near several major highways and state roads.

From Town to City

The Des Moines Improvement Company, led by J. W. Kleeb and O. W. Barlow, purchased approximately 120 acres from previous land claim settlers of the 1870s and 1880s. In 1889, the Des Moines Improvement Company platted the town and named it after Kleeb's hometown of Des Moines, Iowa. That same year, at least seven additions were platted, expanding the original townsite. Between 1890 and 1929, at least seventeen

additional plats were added to the town of Des Moines. The city formally incorporated in 1959.

In the early decades of the town, from approximately 1889 through the 1930s, Des Moines' primary industries were lumber mills, greenhouses, and other agricultural pursuits, such as berry farms. The Van Gasken family operated perhaps the most remembered sawmill, on Des Moines Creek. That mill was active from circa 1889 to 1892. The mill is no longer extant, but the Van Gasken House still overlooks the town and the waterfront.

The population of Des Moines remained small and relatively dispersed through the 1930s. With World War II, wartime production at a nearby Boeing factory drew a large number of workers. Des Moines and other nearby communities surged in population and demand for schools and services. Formerly empty or agricultural lots became the sites for new commercial construction. The present Marine View Drive, once a minor highway dotted with houses and a few businesses, became a busy "Main Street" in the 1940s and 1950s. But, the community was so small it had no bank until the late 1950s or early 1960s. Redevelopment and continued construction in the 1960s and 1970s apparently infilled the remaining empty lots and turned some former single-family residential parcels into multi-business, Modern commercial lots complete with off-street parking.

During the research for this historical context and the associated 2017 historic property inventory, three key themes emerged as important to the identity and unique character of Des Moines. The first two, Recreation and Transportation, relate to the broader community; the third, Commerce, is particularly associated with the historic business district along Marine View Drive near the Des Moines Theater. These themes will be explored in the subsequent pages. Wherever possible, examples of extant properties related to those themes are given. Some of these are located outside of the 2017 building survey area; they are mentioned here due to their local importance for understanding how Des Moines has evolved. Additional themes and associated properties may be identified in the future with additional research, if intensive level surveys are conducted.

Recreation

Des Moines has a long history of offering entertainment and recreation opportunities, for residents and visitors alike. Historically, most of the recreation revolved around the water, with two beach parks and about six miles of waterfront; the two parks are Des Moines Beach Park and Saltwater State Park. Other recreation and entertainment options came with the Des Moines Theater and the amenities related to the public marina, including a fishing pier. These properties are illustrative but not exhaustive examples of the growth and types of recreation/entertainment in the city.

In 1916, Des Moines Beach Park was established. The park use continued until 1931, when the site became a church camp. Since the church camp closed in 1986, the Beach Park has again become a public draw, inviting people to the waterfront.

The second park in Des Moines is located south of the survey area but still along Marine View Drive South. Dedicated in 1926, Saltwater State Park offers camping, hiking, tidepools, a marine sanctuary, and more. The park's 88 acres include 1,445 feet of shoreline on Puget Sound.

In 1946-1947, the Des Moines Theater opened as a cinema along Marine View Drive in the heart of the historic business district. According to dmhs.org, the theater had a 400-seat auditorium as well as commercial spaces. Two different doctors had offices on the second floor.

In circa 1966, the city began planning for a marina. When the Des Moines Marina opened in 1970, it could accommodate 771 vessels, with additional berths added in 1977. This city-operated marina offered moorage, a boat launch, retail and repair services geared

toward boaters, and a public fishing pier. Organized in 1957, the Des Moines Yacht Club is located immediately south of the marina.

Transportation

Des Moines is one of the many communities along the shores of Puget Sound once served by the Mosquito Fleet. These steam-powered vessels carried passengers, mail, and goods from one town or city to another. The reliance on water-based transportation gave way to automobiles, buses and trucks. State highways developed over time to connect people and places—farms with towns and railroads, small towns with larger cities, country roads with interstate highways, and tourists with natural wonders. Highways such as State Route 509 (Marine View Drive) through Des Moines and State Route 516 (Kent-Des Moines Road) had been established and belonged to the state road system by the 1930s. Both the portion of SR 509 which extends through the core business district of Des Moines and the portion of SR 516 between Des Moines and Interstate 5 were previously labeled, together, as Secondary State Highway 1-K. As these roads have improved over the years, they have significantly shaped the landscape they cross and the communities they connect. The old Pacific Highway (State Route 99, in places) is another transportation route that has impacted the development of communities in Western Washington, including Des Moines. However, Pacific Highway did not pass through downtown Des Moines. Of the roads and highways in the Des Moines area, State Route 509 is arguably the most significant for transforming the city. Partially due to these and other road improvements, bus service became a transportation option between Des Moines and Seattle by at least the 1930s. The rise of automobiles and buses meant increased demand for gas stations, automobile repair garages, and related businesses. The building which now houses Dana K's Café (22341 Marine View Drive South) was originally built in 1937 and has served as Osterhaut's Service Station and Garage as well as Del's Texaco and Butler's Auto Repair. Built in 1952, the former city fire station at 22231 Marine View Drive South also subsequently served as an automotive repair garage.

After the end of World War II in 1945, personal automobile ownership rates rose quickly and in turn changed the national landscape. Many new commercial buildings of the time oriented their design to easy automobile access. Demand for more downtown parking led to off-street surface lots, often in front of businesses. Most of the surveyed buildings from the 1950s and 1960s have small parking lots between the building and Marine View Drive. In general, the older buildings (e.g. Wally's Restaurant and Lighthouse Lounge) are closer to the street, since they predate this trend.

Commerce

The commercial development of Des Moines has been a major factor in the growth of the town. By 1910, the Des Moines Commercial Club had formed, alternatively known as the Booster Club, Enterprise Club, and Des Moines-Zenith Improvement Club. The oldest downtown commercial building, the IOOF Hall, was built as the Community Club Hall in 1912. By at least 1907, the community had a post office, two general stores, and the aforementioned lumber mills, with a population of only 350.

Ten years later, the population had only grown to 500 people but there were doctors, a hotel, an egg crate manufacturer, and a plant nursery. By the early 1930s, the population exceeded 1,000 and the business listings included an auto stage company (to Seattle), numerous fruit growers, poultry breeders, various skilled laborers and contractors, more medical practitioners, and some automotive repair/service stations, among other businesses.

The quantity and variety of commercial properties expanded quickly after circa 1940. Based on the buildings extant along Marine View Drive South and surrounding blocks, Des Moines had a boom in the 1940s through the 1960s. Restaurants, small retail stores, multi storefront (business block) buildings, and banks are among the types of commercial

enterprises which built up Marine View Drive through the heart of the town. Some of the best examples of mid-century Modern commercial development include B & E Meats and Seafood (22501 Marine View Dr. S.) and the Marina Market and Deli building (22509 Marine View Dr. S.). Population figures for the 1940 and 1950 statewide census are not available for Des Moines, but in 1960, the city had almost 2,000 residents. In 1970, that had nearly doubled.

Physical description: Located at 730 South 225th Street in downtown Des Moines, Washington, this two-story building originally represented the Modern style; due to alterations, the building no longer exhibits a particular style. Built in 1947 (according to the King County Assessor), the building has a commercial use on the first floor and the local history museum on the second floor. Historically, it was built as a fire and police station for the City of Des Moines. There is a rectangular footprint. Masonry (brick or concrete brick) comprises the structural system as well as the primary exterior cladding on the east side and the small portion of exposed west side. Veneer vinyl siding has been added to the south facade. A flat roof with a surrounding parapet tops the structure. Windows are vinyl replacement types. A historic advertising sign is attached to the east facade, near the entrance for the museum. The original plan appears to be intact. The original cladding appears to have been moderately altered. The original windows appear to have been extensively altered.

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